

# PETERSBURG ON THE APPOMATTOX

(Continued From First Page.)

cent. Personal property returned for taxation in 1910 amounted to \$7,200,000, as compared with \$6,000,000 in 1908, an increase of \$1,200,000, or 20 per cent. Thus the increase of real estate and personal property combined amounted to \$7,700,000, or 27 per cent.

**City in Good Financial Condition.**  
Mr. Patterson, the chairman of the Finance Committee of the Petersburg City Council, was a little reticent when I talked with him, but after being sufficiently pumped he disclosed some interesting financial facts. He told me that Petersburg's bonded debt was last year \$1,285,000. Last year the city paid on this debt \$165,000, and there is a sinking fund now in hand that practically reduces the city's bonded debt to \$25,000.

Against this the real estate and personal property really owned by the city amounts to 1,000,000. Under the charter the city has the right to borrow as much as 22 per cent. of the assessed values, which would amount to \$2,200,000, and yet the city owes not more than \$25,000. There is not a city in the United States that can make a better financial exhibit.

Within the past few years the city has appropriated large sums for improvements to sidewalks, roadways and sewers. It has a modern telephone system, three daily newspapers and attractive parks. The Petersburg Gas Company has greatly enlarged its plant and extended its business, and is installing larger pipes and improving its service generally. Petersburg owns its waterworks, and its water supply ranks very high in potability and purity. Recently the Virginia Railway and Power Company has entered into a contract with the city to furnish electric power to distribute the city water at the rate of 1 cent per kilowatt hour, which is the lowest rate for such service ever secured by any city in this country.

The climate of Petersburg and the surrounding country is a feature that is attracting many home-seekers to the locality. With an average winter temperature of 39 degrees, spring and autumn average of 62 degrees and a summer average of 75 degrees, this section is free from the extremes of heat and cold.

General health conditions have greatly improved within the past two years. One sanitary inspector was added to the force of the Health Department, and an appropriation made for the erection of a contagious disease hospital. Health laws and regulations are more strictly enforced than ever before in the history of the city. Since the office of Milk and Food Inspector was created in August, 1909, most satisfactory progress has been made, both in the care and cleanliness with which milk is being produced and sold. The dairies now furnishing milk to the city compare favorably with any others in the State, there being some which score 88 per cent.

**Public Schools and Banks.**  
Relatively Petersburg is now better equipped with public school facilities than any other city in the State. During the past year two large and modern grammar schools have been erected at a cost of \$100,000. The city's appropriation for public school expenses during the last year was \$1,278,53, as compared with \$1,000,000 five years ago, an increase of 25 per cent.

Petersburg has forty-eight churches, representing all the principal denominations.

During the year the post-office paid money orders amounting to \$15,574.12 as against \$204,301.15 in 1909, an increase of \$115,572.97, or 56 per cent.

There are in Petersburg six banks, having resources amounting to \$7,849,967.23. The capital stock of these banks is \$23,333.84, and their surplus and profits amount to \$971,091.78.

During the past year about 8,000,000 pounds of manufactured tobacco were exported from the United States, of which 5,000,000 pounds, valued at \$1,500,000, or about two-thirds, were exported from Petersburg. In addition Petersburg manufactured in 1910 762,619 pounds of tobacco and 13,415,443 cigars for domestic consumption, besides about 500,000,000 cigarettes, valued at \$600,000, for export. For the year ending October 1, 1910, there were sold in Petersburg 719,793 pounds of leaf tobacco for \$661,939.17. One of 1910's tobacco factories employ 1,000 operatives.

The total value of imports received at the port of Petersburg in 1910 amounted to \$275,000.

Petersburg far exceeds any other city in the world in the manufacture of trunks and bags, the value of these products during the past year being \$2,000,000.

**Cotton Mills and Jobbing.**  
During the year the cotton mills and merchants of Petersburg received about 900 bales of cotton, value \$750,000.

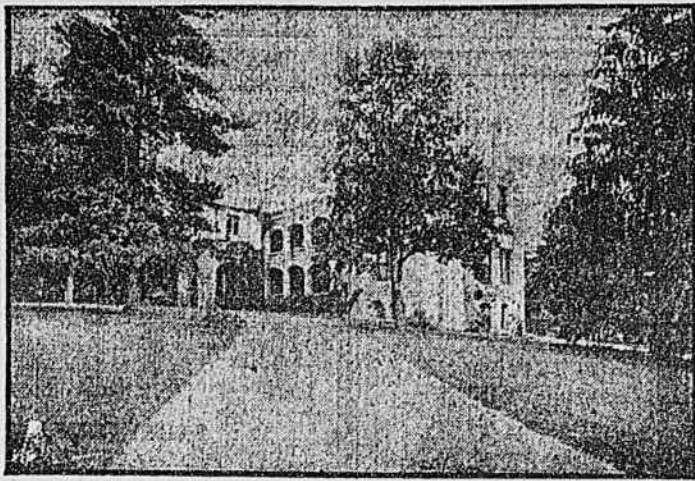
The lumber industry in Petersburg is also one of large proportions, great quantities of timber from the counties of Southside Virginia being shipped here for manufacture in the numerous sawmills, trunk factories, box factories and other woodworking plants.

In 1910 Petersburg peanut dealers handled 400,000 bags of Spanish peanuts, and 125,000 bags of Virginia peanuts, valued at \$2,500,000.

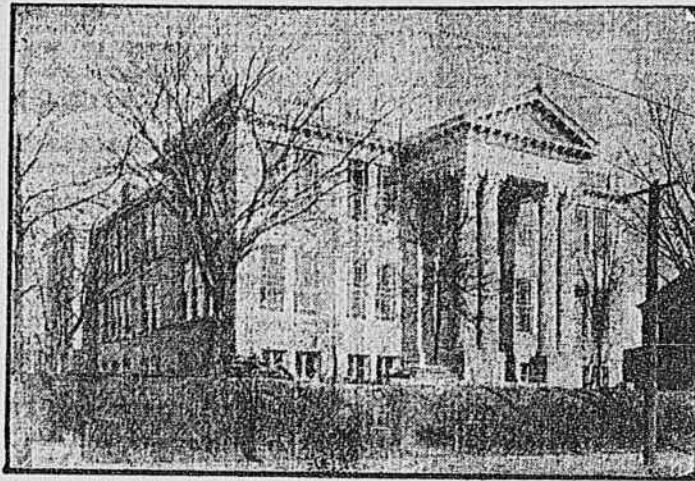
The jobbing business is a very important factor in the city's development. The value of some of the principal lines of this business in 1910 was as follows: Dry goods, \$500,000; boots and shoes, \$350,000; agricultural implements, \$300,000; hardware, \$250,000; fancy groceries and confectioneries, \$1,000,000; mail order liquor, \$1,000,000; drugs, \$200,000; paints and oils, \$100,000. Meat and poultry valued at \$600,000 are sold annually by Petersburg millers, and the hay and feed business of the city amounts to \$450,000.

Prominent among other products of manufacture in this city are the fol-

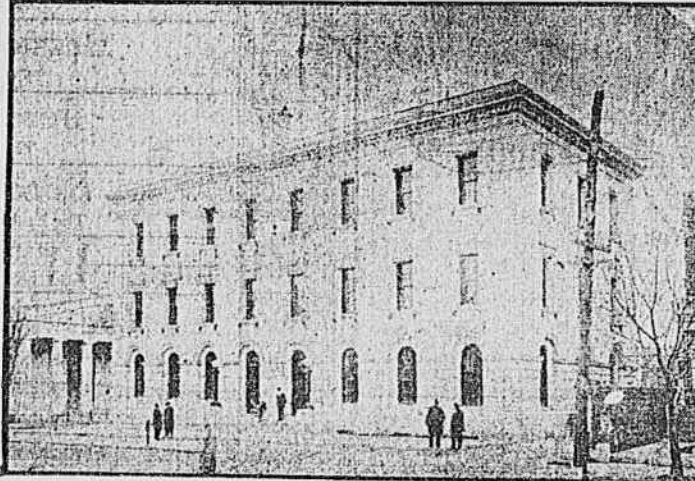
## OTHER PETERSBURG SCENES



Residence of George W. Cameron, Sr.



One of three public schools built in 1911.



Petersburg's Post-Office.

lowing: Leather, fertilizer, granite, hats, silks, baskets, crates and fireworks.

Much of the recent progress of Petersburg has been due to the spirit of co-operation which has been fostered by the Chamber of Commerce. This chamber is an active commercial organization, composed of nearly 175 of the city's most progressive citizens, who are devoting their time and money to upbuilding the city. Its work is highly appreciated by all who are familiar with it.

### Back to the Earth.

But I reckon after all the real estate agencies have done more to make Petersburg great than any other agencies. The pioneer in this line may be said to be Pyle & Co., of which J. E. Cuthbert is the president. I doubt if there is real estate concern in all of Virginia or all of the South that has done more patriotic work. Of course, the young men who first formed this concern expected to make good for themselves but they realized that they must first make good for the country they were in. They took a lot of time to make good on the first line, but they did it, and now they are making good for themselves.

### On a New Line.

This firm decided that a good success in the selling of rural stuff argued well for city and suburban development, and so about five years ago they got interested in Petersburg city and suburban development. There are some flourishing suburbs about Petersburg that were started by Pyle & Co., but I propose to make these a subject for another letter. For the present I am holding down to city propositions. The Pyle Company made some splendid developments in and about Petersburg, and then the young men who are running it conceived the idea that a larger development was in sight. They made a deal with a Richmond concern, of which a young man by the name of Edward S. Evans was the head centre, and thus it came

about that a new company was formed. It is named the Combined Realty and Investment Company, and it is a good thing to bring Richmond and Petersburg together, and sooner or later I think it will bring them very much together. The combine brings Richmond capital and Petersburg energy into one great force that in the end must make things move.

### To-Day's Delays.

I do not know where the investments of this combination company will finally land, but for the present they are largely in Petersburg. The company has acquired some 800 feet on Bollingbrook Street, including the Stratford Hotel. This property is above the high-water mark, and the company proposes to make it Petersburg's wholesale district, inasmuch as trucking arrangements have already been made with the Coast Line people that guarantee wholesalers and shippers a backdoor right on the track, and high and dry above any kind of high-water mark.

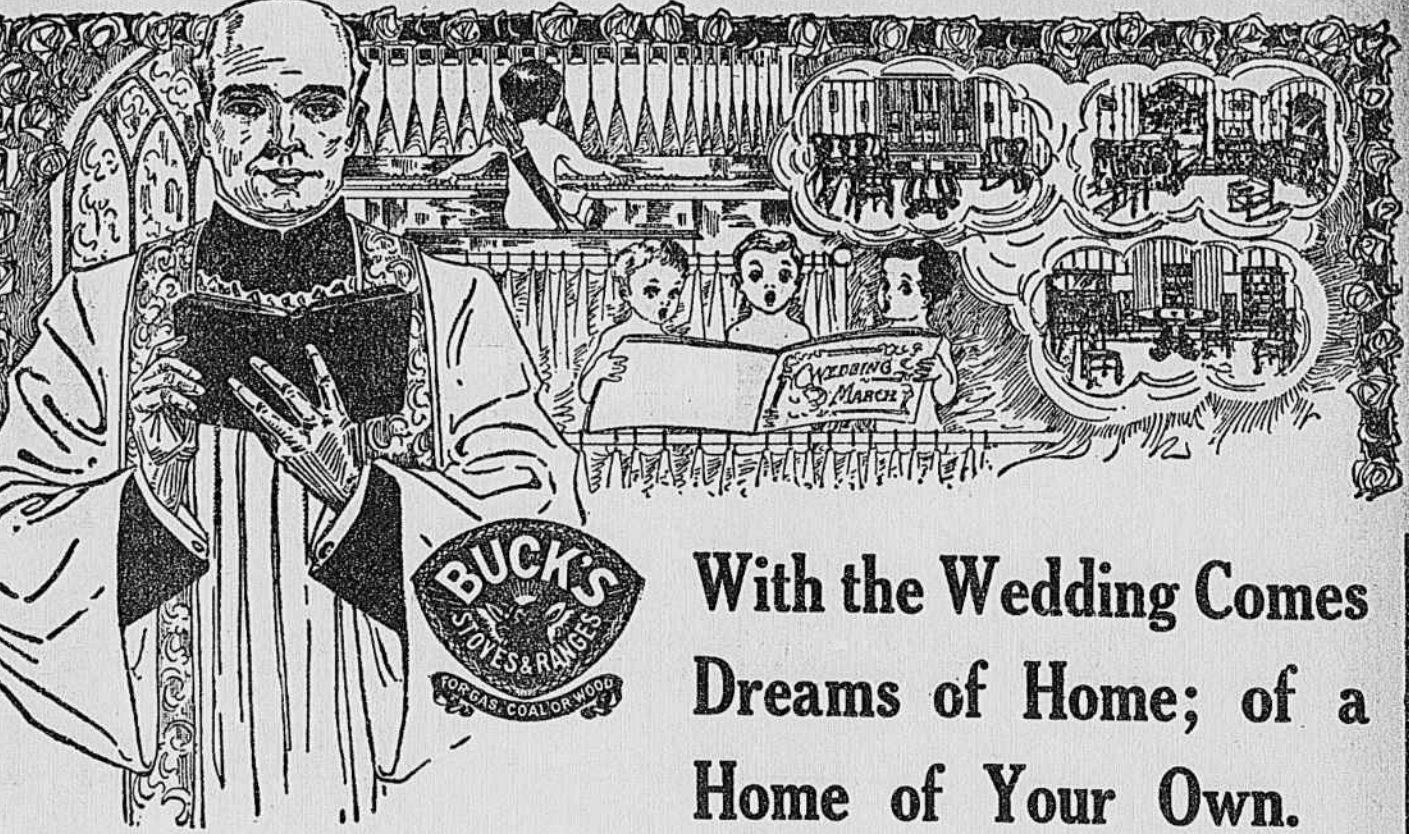
This combination company has also acquired large frontage property on other streets in Petersburg. At Washington and Union Streets the company has acquired ample grounds upon which to erect a twentieth century hotel. I asked one of the members of the company if he thought such a hotel would pay. Here is what he said: "I have reliable information that the hotel capacity of Petersburg at present time is reduced to 110 rooms. I am further informed that every day in the week, especially Saturdays, numbers of people are turned away, and they go over to Richmond or any other old place in which they can find lodging and something to eat. If I have Petersburg has a constant demand for 200 hotel guests per day, and every one of them leaves a good deal of money in town. Does Petersburg want these profitable guests or does it not?"

question, but all the same I am sure a big hotel on the first class order will be a mighty big asset for Petersburg.

### The Combined Company.

But about this combined realty and investment company. According to the records in the office of the State Corporation Commission, the company is composed of at least two Richmond realty companies and two of the Petersburg variety, has a whole lot of capital, and some mighty able young men to run it. The company is really a combination of two or three, maybe four or five Richmond and Petersburg concerns that want to pull together for the development of old Virginia, Petersburg and Richmond, perhaps more especially Petersburg. The company was organized on the 14th of February, with a capital stock of \$250,000. The following well known persons are among the officers and stockholders of the company.

James E. Cuthbert, president of Pyle & Co., Petersburg Realty Corporation; E. S. Evans, president of the Southern Debenture Corporation and the Intercoastal Steamboat Company; R. W. Lassiter, president of the First National Bank of Oxford, N. C.; B. E. Jones, of the National Bank of Petersburg; H. S. Seward, of the Seward Trunk and Bag Company, Petersburg; E. T. Jellison, purchasing agent of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, Richmond; J. Pope Nash, of Gorman & Nash, real estate agents, Richmond; S. H. Turner, secretary and treasurer of Pyle & Co., Petersburg; R. H. Mann, counsel at law, Petersburg; W. H. Cuthbert, president of Cuthbert Brothers, Insurance Agents, Petersburg; Robert Cabanis, president of several industrial enterprises in Petersburg; I. Hollinger, secretary of the Southern Debenture Corporation, of Richmond; C. McD. Pope, A. K. Powell and J. W. Seward, of the Seward Trunk and Bag Company, and others.



How many young couples there are—you, perhaps, a few one of them—whose wedding dream of a happy home all their own seems impossible!

That dream—that happy home dream of yours—need not be impossible; need be impossible for none. This store will make your home dream—every home dream—a pleasing reality.

Your every home dream need be here just as you have pictured it a thousand times. Our prices and liberal terms of credit make the dream an easy reality.

Won't you bring us your home dream and let us make it your reality?

## SPECIALS FOR THE BED ROOM

Kent Special Felt Mattress.....	\$8.75
Kent Special Combination Mattress.....	4.75
Full Size Continuous Post Metal Bed, with high-grade all-metal spring.....	8.75
Full Size Brass Bed.....	12.50
Genuine Mahogany Colonial Bed.....	12.50
Genuine Mahogany Princess Dresser.....	19.75
Genuine Mahogany Chiffonier.....	21.75
Genuine Mahogany Washstand.....	9.75
Genuine Mahogany Wardrobe.....	25.00
Full Swell Front Quartered Oak Dresser, shaped mirror.....	18.75
Chiffonier to match.....	16.75
Extra Large Heavy Bed, quartered oak, roll head and foot.....	9.75

## In April We Celebrate and We Want Everyone Within Shopping Distance of Petersburg to Join Us.

To the majority of the people in Petersburg and vicinity our store for years has been the buying headquarters for furniture and house furnishings.

To a bigger, better store—a perfect store service we have always aimed, and now as we enter upon this spring season, we feel that we are entering upon a new era in our store's history.

Our store service we believe *par excellence*, and we have gathered here to aid you in your selecting, as we have never before been able to aid you, a most comprehensive and exceedingly complete line of up-to-date Furniture and House Furnishings.

If we have served you well heretofore, that service will be now increased tenfold.

Our prices, as heretofore, will be as low as it is possible to price goods of real worth and merit.

How well, satisfactorily and economically we can serve you we want you to come and see for yourself.

KENT FURNITURE CO., Petersburg, Va.

## DINING ROOM SPECIALS

Genuine Oak Sideboard.....	\$13.75
Fine Quartered Oak Sideboard, extra large French beveled mirror.....	32.50
Round Oak Pedestal Extension Table.....	9.75
Box Seat Diner to match.....	1.75
Bent End Glass China Case.....	12.75
Extra Large and Roomy China Case, full quartered oak.....	26.75
Beautiful Quartered Oak Extension Table, large claw feet.....	23.75
Fine Quartered Oak Box Seat Diner.....	2.75
Genuine Mahogany Buffet.....	42.75
Genuine Mahogany China Case.....	33.50
Genuine Mahogany Extension Table.....	28.75
Birch Mahogany Slip Leather Seat Diner.....	4.75
Solid Mahogany Buffet.....	72.50
Solid Mahogany China Case.....	48.75
Solid Mahogany Extension Table.....	52.50
Solid Mahogany Serving Table.....	19.75
Solid Mahogany Leather Seat Diners.....	5.75

# KENT FURNITURE COMPANY, THE BIG STORE

## PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

## LABOR CONDITIONS NORTH AND SOUTH

(Continued From First Page.)

shown that working and living conditions at Lawrence are typical of all branches of mining and manufacturing in the northern portions of the United States.

The United States Immigration Commission has consumed three years, employed several hundred persons, and expended over \$600,000 in studying existing industrial conditions. The report of this body consists of fifteen volumes of a thousand pages each, includes a discussion of conditions in forty of the leading divisions of mining and manufacturing. The Bureau of Labor has recently spent over \$300,000 in its woman and child labor investigation, and has collected volumes of valuable data. It has also made special studies of the Bethlehem steel works and the steel industry in general. The tariff board has just paid \$200,000 for two reports, one on the woolen and worsted goods and the other on the cotton goods industry.

**What These Studies Show.**  
The studies of the Immigration Commission have shown the disastrous effects of the influx of a cheap labor supply of low standards of living from the south and east of Europe. The Federal Bureau of Labor reports show the low wages and family income, the absence of an independent form of family life, the congested living conditions, the inability of the wage-earner to support his family, the dependence for supplementary income upon the earnings of wives and children, and the payments received from boarders and lodgers. The Tariff Board by ascertaining labor costs in their relation to total costs has demonstrated, unconsciously though it may be, the fact that the industrial worker is not properly participating in the fruits of industry.

**Conditions Down South.**  
The facts have been collected. They are readily available. It is not necessary to wait for human witnesses, additional congressional investigation. The time has arrived for the American people to sit in judgment upon those who falsely plead for an obsolete protective system in the name of the wage-earner. The time is at hand also for helping the wage-earner by protecting him against the ruinous competition of an unrestricted alien labor supply.

Another fact is evident. It is not so much for New England and the North to point with horror and scorn at the so-called evil working and living conditions of employment in the Southern States, are not ideal. They are far from perfect. But one fact stands out

above all others as a result of these recent and unbiased investigations—conditions of living and working among the mass of industrial workers in the South are better than in the North and West. The Southern States show most favorably in comparison with other sections.

### INDUSTRIAL BRIEFS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., March 30.—Among the many new industries started in the South during the past week, reported to the Tradeboard, are the following:

In Virginia—Ballston, \$5,000 construction company; Norfolk, \$100,000 co-ownership and lumber company; Pennington Gap, \$15,000 hotel company; Roanoke, \$25,000 development company; Richmond, \$40,000 construction company.

In West Virginia—Branchland, \$25,000 bridge company; Buckhannon, \$5,000 chemical company; Clarksburg, \$10,000 amusement company; \$5,000 construction company, \$25,000 development company; Charleston, \$5,000 engineering company, \$100,000 oil company, \$5,000 mine, \$25,000 oil and gas company; Glen Jean, \$10,000 coal and land company; Huntington, \$20,000 coal and land company; \$5,000 manufacturers of clothing, \$50,000 oil and gas company; Keyser, \$10,000 printing company; Mullens, \$15,000 mine; Romney, \$10,000 orchard company; Warwood, manufacturing company.

In North Carolina—Asheville, \$10,000 development company; Chapel Hill, \$5,000 construction company; Durham, \$5,000 building construction company; Elkin, \$5,000 ice and light plant; Flat Rock, \$12,000 hosiery mill; Greenville, \$25,000 hotel company; Hendersonville, glove factory; Mount Holly, \$25,000 development company; Raleigh, \$25,000 water company; Washington, \$25,000 co-ownership company.

# Petersburg, VIRGINIA

May Be the Very Place You Are Looking For

## Mr. Manufacturer Mr. Merchant,

And YOU may be just the kind of citizen we NEED and would heartily welcome.  
For full information about Petersburg you are invited to address the

## Chamber of Commerce of Petersburg, Va., Inc.

"THE HOME FOR SAVINGS."

## When Are You Going to Begin Saving?

There is only ONE time to start, and that is NOW. Something should be laid aside for emergencies, for "it's the unexpected that ALWAYS happens." Why not open a Savings Account to-day and let us add interest to it twice a year.

## The Central National Bank

CAPITAL..... \$250,000.00

307 East Broad Street.